

OLD TIME PRIZE FIGHTS I trained a young fellow from Philadel-phia, Jim Weeden by name, to fight an-other young fellow from that town, named

Pugilists and Famous Bouts That terweights as ever stepped into a ring. The fight took place at Penn's Grove, N. Occurred Back in the Sixties.

SPECTATORS TOOK A HAND

Hard Crowds That Frequented the Sport Often Made It End in Tragedy. Bouts Which Last Seventy and Eighty Rounds-Recollections of an Old Iting Patron.

"There's not much to be said about prize fights in the District, either past or present, that I know of," said the oldtimer. Ned Donnelly, to a Times man. "There never was a big fight pulled off around here. There were a good many ring followers in Washington in the old days, but they had to go a good way from home to see a fight.

"The battles that probably stirred Washington fight-followers as they were never stirred before, and as they have never been stirred since, were those between Sam Collier and Barny Aaron, Sam was a Baltimore man, was well known here and everybody liked him. Sam and Barny fought twice and the fights were hummers, "Both of these battles took place in Virginia, and a bont load of people went from here to see each of them. The first fight was won by Collier in sixty seven This was the first and only de-

feat for Barny, and he didn't like it a bit. went after Sam again the next year. This fight took place at Aquia Creek, and a big crowd of Washington and Bal-timore sports, among them some of the toughest you ever saw, were again at ringside. Everybody wanted Sam to win and were sure he would, but Barny was loaded for him this time and downed him in seventy-two rounds. These were great fights, and no one who saw them is

likely to over forget them. SOME OLD-TIMERS

"No the District never turned out a fighter of the first rank in any class that

"The old-timers, Allen, Mace, Goss and the rest of them? Yes, I was pretty close to Allen for a number of years. Tom was a me fighter. I went with him in '69, and with Jim Cayne, of Newark, N. J., helped to train him for his first fight with McCoole. That was a fight that raised my hair. It took place at Fester's Island, in the Mississippi River, and, ob, av, what a gang was there!

"Every man had a club, knife or gun, and some had all three. Allen stood no show in that crowd. He had McCoole whipped to a standstill in nine rounds Mike's face looked like a Hamburger sandwich. Allen punished him as few men have ever been punished in a prize ring. The fight was for \$1,000 a side, excursion me vay, and the championship of America ged the gang was there to see that Mike didn't lose.

"When it became evident that Mike was at Tom's mercy, the ring was broken down and the mob of thieves, thugs and muderers rushed in and ended the affair.

"I was with Allen when he trained for second fight with Charley Gallagher, but Barney Aaron put the finishing touches on him for that battle. Tom was a loud fellow when he got started, and he more than once brought no end of trouble on once came near getting himself and all the rest of us mobbed in St. Louis by a slighting remark about the Irish. Every ord he would utter about anybody or anything would be carried to his enemies. and he had a good many of them, and he kept us in hot water all the time. But he seemed to enjoy the thing. Whatever others may think. Allen had a world of nerve. RINGSIDE GANGS.

"Gallagher had whipped him in two rounds a short time before Tom fought McCoole, and Tom was dead auxious to get another chance at him, always claiming that Charley's victory was by a chance blow, such as he would never get in again. I knew there would be an awful mob at this fight, and looked for murder, and to tell you the truth, I got scared and didn't

Things turned out as I thought. Allen had things his own way in the fight. He whipped Charley all right enough in twentyfive mionies, but the gang wouldn't hav It. Again they were there with their es, guns, razors, and bludgeons. They broke down the ring, and Larry Wessel. referee, robbed Tom shamefuly by giving the fight to Gallagher.

"I did not train or help train Tom for his meeting with Goss, but I saw the fight. I tell you those were great days among the fighters. The gangs that were at the Alien and McCoole and Allen and Gallaguer fights were hard ones, but they were not in it with the outfit that congregated on this occasion. This crowd was so desperate a one that after getting a short distance away from Cincinnati the train men, to save the decent passengers aboard from insuit and danger, deliberately ran the cars containing the fighting excursion onto a side track and left them standing there, while the rest of the train went or its way rejoicing.

Finally we got to the battleground, in Kenton county, Ky., but Tom and Joe had hardly got well at it when the whole gang was run out by the sheriff and his men, and another ring was pitched in the adjoining county of Boone. After fighting about fifty minutes in all Allen fouled as and was declared the loser. This was Allen's last ring fight

IT ENDED FATALLY.

"I was unfortunate enough to get mixed up in a fight that had a fatal ending.

Philip Caster, who was known as Philip Walker. They were a pair of as game welin their heads, I., something over twenty years ago.

The men were about twenty-four years old. Billy Madden and Sam Collier were Waiker's seconds, and Butt Riley was

the old rules, for \$500 a side. "After the men had been in the ring an bour and three-quarters, Westen hit Walker a hard blow and he fell heavily. When he went down his head struck with such force that he became uncon scious. We picked him up and made him as comfortable as we could. We then started for Philadelphia, but Walker died on board the tug before we reached that

his bottle-holder, Johnny Clark, Spring

Dick, and myself were in Weeden's corner. The fight was with bare knuckies, under

"Walker had been very ambitious to become a great pugilist. He was confident he would beat Weeden, and the night before the fight remarked to a party of friends: 'We'll have beer or a funeral to morrow, boys.' There was a great hie and cry raised about the fight, of course, but it finally settled down, and po harm came to those who had a hand in it."

THE CHIPMUNK.

Something About This Pretty Little Dweller in the Woods. Phijadelphia Times.

Have you ever watched the antics of the ground squirrels in summer? The name the learned people give them in the books is almost as hard as the nuts the frisky little fellows gather up for their winter food. Imagine yourself saying every time you see one of these little fellows during along the fence or the limb of a tree, "There goes a tamias striatus of the order schuridae." The last name comes from the Greek, scribes pretty well the way in which a squirret carries his tail shading his head. But the Indian name, chipmunk, seems to sult him much better.

His long front teeth are well adapted to the hard work before them in the winterthat is, to get the contents of the nut out in good shape. These two teeth seem to be of a gaunt, hardy, long-lived stock, so novable and to work as if on a pivot. They go around the inside of a walnut or a bickory nut and serve the purpose of a nutpicker as well as a but cracker.

as well as a but cracker.

If you examine a walnut that a squffrel his dropped you will find that both the flat to day as much as ever; he is full of tricks sides have been pierced as if bored through of the skylarking order, always ready to with a gimlet, and that every particle of the | mp and feint and jump about his fakernel has been removed from the shell by miliars. Every day for years he has had these flexible little teeth.

They come by twos and threes, these comical little providers, from their home in to prepare for or not. His mind is always a great old oak just across the road from on the one thing, and he has the will the end of our lawn, and you may trace their route from one tree to another by the redictates. bounding of the branches when relieved of light weight as the squirrels jump and frolic along

Two large horse-chestnut trees in front of the house are right in the line of march just now, and it is amusing to sit on the porch and watch a little fellow a large leaf that seems to be in his way. Just when the leaf falls, you see him stop and fill his cheeks with the green horse chestnuts, and then, as it seems to you with his mouth too full for comfort, he nurries home just as nimbly as he came over his elevated road, jumping sometimes wer a space between the branches, two or

three feet in width. If you do not put your walnuts and bickorynuts carefully away in the fall, these little thieves will find them out and soon reduce your store. They carry then while drying in the sun, and even before

A young girl in Southern Maryland had the power of taming these little fellows with a few crumbs of bread or grains of corn and wheat; the could draw them around her and catch any two or three of them that she fancied, carry them in her pockets or apron for half a day and when set free they would scamper off as wild as

Visitors to the park in Richmond remember the tame squirrels that, if treated to a few peanuts or cake crumbs, will follow you for hours around the grounds and seem to know you if you go back again in the cours of a day or two. They are the gray and black squirrels, with thicker tails than the chipmunks, but are just as knowing and and smaller brushes.

In an Underground Asiatic City.

The Russians have made a singular scovery in Central Asia. In Turkestan on the right bank of the Amou Daria, is a chain of rocky hills near the Bokharan town of Karki, and a number of large caves, which, upon examination, were found to lead to an underground city, built apparently long before the Chris tian era. According to effigies, tions, and designs upon the gold and sil ney unearthed from am the existence of the town dates back to some two centuries before the birth of Christ. The underground Bokharan city is about two versts long, and is composed of an enormous labyrinth of corridors, streets, and squares, surrounded by stories high. The edifices contain many kinds of domestic utensils, pots, urns, vases, and so forth. In some of the streets falls of earth and rock have obstructed the passages, but generally the visitor car walk about freely without so much as low-ering his head. The high degree of civilization attained by the inhabitants of the city is shown by the fact that they buil in several stories, by the symmetry of the streets and squares, and by the beauty of the baked clay and metal utensils and of the ornaments and coins which have been found. It is supposed that long centu-ries ago this city, carefully concealed in the bowels of the earth, provided an entire population with a refuge from the incur-sions of nomadic savages and robbers.— Spring Dick Goodwin, of Cincinnati, and | London Public Opinion.



FITZ A KNOCK-OUT HITTER

Dallas in October

But Corbett Is an All-Round Master of the Defensive-A Parcel of "Ifs' in the Respective Merits of the Men-Cuts Showing Their Methods

To some of the wise men of ring culture the proposed big championship contest to be held in Dallas, Texas, the last of October of this year, in which Robert Fitzsinmons is aspirant and James J. Corbett is bolder of the honor, presents a puzzling aspect. It is true enough that a lot of people see the outcome before the thing has happened, but in spite of the wiseacres there is a parcel of "ifs" bristling up in divers nooks and corners-ugly obstacles which are liable to give either man a tumble in the heat and fury of practicable milling. A piece of advice founded, I believe, on good, common sense, is that all sports flocking to the Lone Star State lay enough by to get home on, no maiter which way the betting pictures shape up

But if it is hard to pick a winner, perhaps the next best thing can be done-viz., notice the respective fistic fashions and tactics of the combatants as shown in their set-tos with other opponents, from which probably wise prophets who are to stack on their prophecies anyway, may be wiser; or, having chanced and lost, may still say We wagered the only way it could be done scientifically; it was the 'Huke' that knocked us." I ought to be in as I ought to be in as good position as anybody to sort out and comment on what is striking in each man, knowing them both, having seen them in



Corbett and Sparring Partner O'Don neil. G'Donnell Shows an Eccentric chw blow to Firzsimmons.

more mills than one, and having talked to and photographed them in various positions with a careful ear to their tricks and strategies of war.

three years ago, going to New Zealand with his parents when a child. He was brought up to the blacksmith trade, leaving it only at such times as he had a match on; when he had whipped his man he got back to the forge, thus keeping always in hardened condition. Fitz comes that now at thirty-three-a time that is usually accounted pretty well along in pugilistic old age-be is as nimble, trim in physique and full of boxing friskiness exercise in this manner, and by punching the flying bag, whether there was a match

The great fighting points that have been brought to the front in Pitzsimmons' battles are unprecedented knockout hitting, feinting and a lightning, erratic leg movement, which gives him an appearance of grotesqueness. To one looking down from the gallery his amazing swiftness in play about a twenty-fouroot ring has the appearance of the sh of some gigantic hovering bird; in a glide he looks to cover the length of the ri

In the art of feinting or pretense, Fitzsimmons is not equaled by any fighter in the ring. His opponents are mixed to know what he is going to do next, and it is from this more than from anything else, that he is called ecceptric. He has made of feinting such a study, has brought it to such perfection in various ways, that, in close connection with his fierce hitting, it phenomenally quick successes in the ring. The knock-out hitter must have an open runway for his blow; he must not have half its force stopped by the opponent's arm; Fitz is an adept in getting that opening and when it occurs his crooked arm work, his side jabs and uppercuts-are murderous, It is a maxim of the boxing arena that the contestant who knocks out quickly is liable to get knocked out quickly, the re-



nd Sparring Partner McCarthy. Illustrating Knee Fein and Darting Motion of Getting In

extra preparation must be made for de livery—the arms must be drawn further away from guard position and an openness to getting over this big obstacle than any fighter employing such trip-hamm hits; he has not kept clear altogether, how ever, as the rap with which Joe Choynski brought him to the floor in Boston once, perior to Hall, and has whipped him two or three times, but in one of their contests les, Fitz, after having his man apparently well in hand, was suddenly caught by his opponent and dropped to the floor like a log. It was the same thing that Choynski came to so near doing, and the same thing that others, though less pronouncedly, have shown some progress at. The saying still holds, therefore, that a nouncedly, have shown some progress at.

The saying still holds, therefore, that a lieve, without detecting differences worthy fighter fierce at knocking out is liable of notice. In training for the champion-

to get the same medicine, though in the case of Pitzsimmons, when it is remembered what a lot of men he has sent to sleep, the rule has been pretty near set at defiance. And this infimumity comes from the fact that the New Zealander is the most polished break-up feinter for a quick open-

ing that the staked ropes ever cordoned. Whereas, most boxers are satisfied with feinting with the arms or hands, Fitzsimmons feints with the knees, the body, a



Corbett Illustrates Safe Manner of Stopping or Countering Hook Hlows. most vigorously with the erms. Knee or leg feinting to bother an opponent was first shown to American glove fighters by Peter Jackson. On this style Fitz has improved, or at least changed in a master better suited to him and more puzzling for the opposite man. It is a style tense at which a dumpy fighter cuts a sorry figure, needing for a good worker, a lanky fellow with long reach of territory from the knees to the bead. It means the swing that a man gets by dropping slightly by means of the knee joints, keeping his feet in one position-a durting beek and forth. Fitzsimmons has in this a play of about four feet, which he has encompassed with the velocity of a striking serpent, and at any place along the route he is good for a knockout if the opening presents. He can hit hard from almost any position, another little item which has added to his eccentricity.

A most singular thing in connection tle is becoming more and more recognized among the pairons of the ring as a stand-ard to be closely adhered to up to a point glove-contest times. A recent cluster of heavyweights, among whom were Sullivan, Goddard, Siavin, Jackson, and Corvan, Goddard, Godda came along, and by his record thus far has shown he is a factor to be considered whenever the talk is of champions. It is well to note in this place that some people whose positiveness of assertion is equaled only by their lack of inside ring knowl-edge are found of asserting that the Austrahan is really a heavyweight; that 175 pounds or some such matter is better suited to him than anything else. This is a misrepresentation. It is well enough known that he was a 147-pound man in most of his-Australian fighting career It is also well known that he has milled in this country considerably below middle weight, and not longer than a year ago-September 26, 1894-be weighed in at the ring side for Dan Creedon at 155 1-2 This should be convincing enough as to his weight class. He and Creedon were matched to turn the scales



Heart or Lower Ribs.

at 158 pounds. Nothing lighter was expected of him, yet he came to the ropes two and one

half nounds lower. has been noted, Fitzsimmons is a wonder in the way of knock-out hitting, yet, if he and Corbett were to measure their striking strength by test, on registering machine, it is very probable that Corbett would equal or out-hit him, may be looked on as the foundation of his which is a trifle paradoxical to the uninitiated. Fitzsimmons, in the ring, lets fly his powerful batteries at every opening, holding nothing in reserve; Corbett keeps half the force of his home, to take care of biruself. The first goes in head and heels; the second goes in only as far as he can get back safely Fitz deals in one-punch knockouts; Corbet never, unless his man has been jabbed till he is too weak to throw a quick and dangerous counter, or unless he is no good, as in the case of Charley Mitchell. This reminds one of the maxim before referred to-namely, that the dashing single-punch fellow not infrequently goes out on the same route. But it has been stated also, however, that Fitzsimmons holds himself more safely than any other fighter that ever used such beroic measures, and that because of his marvelous feinting and quick-

The big Californian is a student of safe fighting; it has been this study for many years. As a follower of scientific milling, to the nicest reasoning, the ring never had the equal of Corbett in so big a man; bebelieves in seeing his way, and he will not leave his fortifications till he does.

He once said to me: "When I get in the ring with an opponent I am looking narrowly for the inside track; that is my study. I have spent many hours in men tal planning for every contest I ever had, with the result that when I get in front of my man my itinerary of routes any way he chooses. I like him to do the starting always and be is going to fall into one of the paths already chalked out

As showing the thoroughness and fore thought of the American champion, I can relate that just before his meeting Peter lackson—the contest which placed him among the great fighters of the world early winning from him, attests, and as be was lively in quest of colored men to-he knockout by Jim Hall in Australia, has box with. He said "I: have sparred plenty strated. He has always been su- of white men, but here I am soon to craw in the ropes to fight to the finish with a herculean black (Jackson), and I do no snow how it seems to stand in front of one of them; there may be something in a dark opponent that is not found in a light one, and, if so, it behooves me to find out, the souner the better." Jim investi-gated the subject carefully; he boxed with

9; he made it instead some time after 11, as he said he did not know but is might habituate him to feel sleepy too early in the evening—a time, for all he knew, that on the actual night of coo-

test might find his fortune and the ambitension of the hair springs of his nerves. Looking ahead into such minute details such things as appear puerile to ordinary people, shows the stuff of which generals are fashioned.

The science of boxing has been studied with as much care by Jim as any professional man in the same time, has given to his vocation. Enthusiasm, continuity and a plastic physique made him a veri-table giant in the ring before any one bed suspected it. Supposed to be an order; over-grown kid, with nothing more than a knowledge of fancy boxing, he slipped into the ring with Peter Jackson, in 1891, and was full partner in the greatest ring conte between big men in the annals of pugil-ism. "No contest," it was called, after sixty-one rounds of the most marvelous exhibition of endurance, pluck and ring tactics in the history of the fighting world. On that May night, in San Fran-cisco, it is doubtful if any man could have taken either of their places for an hour without defeat.

If Fitzsimmons has come to be famous for his abandon in hitting, his lightning changes of front, his litheness and darting of the body, and a capability of mustering murderous blows from any position, Corbett is just as famous for his polished mastery of all parts of the game, and particularly for his wondrous ducking and rapid, graceful foot movements.

Most boxers have set ways of ducking that the opposite man is soon "next to." will switch his head around flying fists as if the wind of the glove made a cushion of the air, that is always pushing his head just out of the way of being pinned. He will send his bead either way in a circle from an incoming right or left-hander, or he will duck under and up into his man's face in a Such ducking as the big one is capable of has been attained only after years of special practice. When Jim was a young instructor of boxing in the Olympic Club. of San Francisco, a common amusement with him was to set his juvestle class on the gymnasium horse one by one and go ting down and on a level with each other, with Filasimmons' punch-killing is his the little fellow would endeavor to strike weight. Weight in matching men to but the big one in the face, then the pompadour would swish round or back, always clear of the juvenile fist, and the little fellow would gather more confidence to hit hard at which a boxer is presumed to be handi- and straight, but still the pompadour would capped with his bigness. This point- always be snatched away or to one side. the notch at which a man is supposed to be Much exercise such as this and practice big enough to fight anybody—was much with all sorts of boxing opponents, in which lighter in the bare-knockie fighting days. Jim did the getting away and they the find-of England than it has come to be in our ing or seeking, furnished him his peculiarly

ing some of the lighter ones out who called out hitter all the time; he is a magician at themselves light-heavyweights. We were feloting and getting in from a long distance, beginning to believe that these big fellows and he can knock Corbett out as quickly as anybody else if he can hit him about the when Fitzsimmons, clearly capable of fighting at middleweight and even lower. head. At ducking or saving punishment from his head be is nothing extra. His fast finishes of Jam Hall, Dan Creeden and others could probably not be duplicated by another man in the world. These have given him rank to dispute with the champion and he is the best man to be had to day to put agninst him.

Corbett is an all-round master of the defensive art. He knows more about the game, taken as a whole, than Fitz or anybody else, but for reasons already seen he is behind Fitz in dangerous and desperate worrk. Fitz-simmons has shown himself a genius in a few particulars, while Corbett is reliable and steady-going from beginning to end. Here are some of the "ifs" of the proposed If the fight lasts ten rounds and the phe

senat Australian has not landed a knock out it is likely he would not land one in hundred years. Jamie will have known all about his turns by that.

If Fitz is swift enough to catch Jim in z

duck he can win in from four to seven rounds.

If Jim is swifter in his ducking than Pita in reaching for them he will push the attenu ated New Zenlander all over the ring and do him for good at leisure. If Fitz wins he must doitquick

If Corbett wins he must take his time such a dangerous fellow. If Fitz wins he will own two distinct

nships, middle and heavy. If Corbett wins he will have wa ing in thee yes of his epernies and the unthink ing, but a whole lot in the eyes of good If Fitz loses it will come easy for him. H

will still be middle-weight champion of the If Jim loses he will indeed be in a bad way. People will taunt him that he

whipped by a stender middle-weight. He could not hope to get on a return match, and would have to mill with the common herd or get out of it altogether. JOSEPH H. DONOVAN.

PERFECTION OF MINT JULEPS Drink That Makes a Man Thankful That He Is Alive.

A Marylander and an Alabamian cannot argue on the subject of mint juleps without coming to blows-that is, of course, if both are patriotic sons of their respective States. Both States claim the origin of the mint julep. Neither Georgia, Kentucky nor Ten nessee has yielded its claim to the invention, but the sons of those straight-goods States never come to blows in the discuss

I am of the opinion, says a writer in the New York Press, that the mint julep was a Persian invention. Fine mint grows in that country, and from the earliest ages the jutep was known as a vehicle for taking dicine. The Greeks also knew the julep and handed it down to the French and the Spanish. Whisky was not used in the mixture, however, but strong spirituous liquors of other kinds. As to the best modern julep, there are various opinions. It is not to be had for love or money, or political influence, in this city's public bars.

Only a native of one of the rock-bottomed outhern States can make it to perfection. Now is the time for it. The mint is in its tenderest age. The Greeks bruised their mint. We never think of doing that over here. By "we" I mean those of us who know what a julep is. We steep a bunch of the freshest mint in a glass of whisky and brandy, in equal portions, for four hours. This extracts the flavor of the mint without the bitter quality that spoils a julep. Fill a silver pitcher with cracked ice next, we say, pour in the whisky and brandy, with a little water, and send to your friends. When a fine frost settles upon the outside of the pitcher the julep is ripe. But a dozen spriga of fresh mint in a glass and pack well with cracked ice. Over the top sprinkle pulvr zed sugar to the taste, then slowly pour from the pitcher until the glass in filled and the sugar dissolved. Then-drink. Bury your nose in the mint till the delightfully ool scent goes away down to your toes. After one or two of these you will thank the Lord that you are alive. There are other juleps, but this is "the julep."

He-It is your birthday on Saturday.

He—I have been thinking about what I should give you as a present and I came to the conclusion that a Dresden china shepherd and shepherdess would be very pressy. She-But we have a pair all ready in th

drawing room.

He-We had, but I have accidently

Foreign Book at the Track Floods Its Coffers with Dollars,

HARD GAME FOR THE PUBLIC

Get the Worst of the Deal at Every Stage-False Prices and Shaved Quotations Lead Them Astray-Fake Wire-Tappers and Touts Work Their Confidence Schemes.

owing to an inability to make both ends meet the public in general bave wondered what kept them alive. It has been predicted that they would die half a dozen times, and the fall has again and again been looked for. The outlaws have evidently no intention of "dying," and despite reports to the contrary, have sailed screnely along, and

On several occasions when it was ru-

mored that the outlaw tracks across the

river were on the point of closing down

not only managed to keep their heads above water, but have made money. Of course the question is, By what means have they been able to do it? There is only one answer-"The foreign book." This is the keystone to their success, and as long as they hang on to it just so long

will they reap a golden harvest.

The foreign book on the two Virginia



tracks is exactly similar to a foreign book on any other track, and it is the same good game everywhere else that it is here.

It has kept alive more than one broken down, outlawed race track, and if the truth were but known, was running for no other reason than to allow the selling of pools on races out of town. BOTH GAMES ALIKE.

The pool room "graft" is exactly simflar to the foreign book arrangement and pays just as large dividends, but it is much harder to get a license for a pool room, and then the attendance is not as good as it is on a race track.

There are many hundred people who visit the races and incidentily take a flyer at the foreign book who would never think of going to a pool room unless there were local races to add to the zest of the sport There half a dozen reasons why this foreign book scheme is such a good one. The fact that it costs the backers of a foreign book anywhere from \$500 to

get any thing like this price against him.

Most of the money went on at 15 and
20. When it is taken into consideration. that the parties who carried out the coup bet thousands it will easily be seen that they lost thousands of dollars through the sys-

tem of shaving the prices.

This price question is not the only thing against the foreign book. It has other drawbacks that carry nearly as much weight. For instance it can be readily seen that it is a pretty hard matter to pick a winner in the foreign book unless the player has private information direct from the track where the races are going on.

It is very seidons that this is so. Some of the owners at the track unger agent or friend who sends them in tips, agent or friend who sends them in tips, and if so he stands a fighting chance of beating the game. It is the man who goes up to the board and amphazard attempts to pick a winner, who fills the foreign book coffers.

HAVE NO LINE WHATEVER.

It is tough enough to pick a winner when you are on the track where the races are being run and can see the horses work and so draw some kind of a line on them. How much harder it is when there is nothing of the kind to guide the bettor.

Suppose he goes by the belling that comes in from the tracks, and plays his money accordingly. It would seem that this would furnish a fairly good line on the horses that had the best chance, and it would if it were not for one thing.

The very horse that does not appear to

receive any support at the track might be one who has been heavily played. This will happen through the fact that only two bettings are furnished the foreign books. There are what are called "flashes." which show the price of a horse that has been very heavily played, but the play must be a strong one before these flashes are sent in.

Again, a horse is often made a false

favorite for the purpose of catching the money of the suckers who know nothing in the world of the merits of the animals running, but simply play their money the way the bet-ting goes.

Nowadays foreign books are fairly honest.

but there was a time when barefaced steals were practiced. It used to by 'play' or pay" then, and money would be often taken in on a horse after be had been scratched from a race for some time.

TOUTS HAVE A HARVEST. The foreign book furnishes a great field for the touts. A stranger who knows noth ing of the horses will take a tout's advice on them twice as quickly as he will on the local track, where he thinks he has a

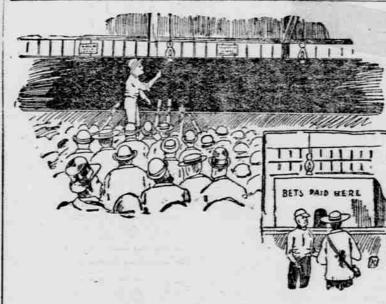
line on the ponies. The touts will oftenget up fake telegrams and show them to the man they want to "get down." They will tell him that they "would not show them to snyone else for a barrel of money." This is a great argument, and unless the "sucker" is not so green as he looks, the chances are ten to one that he takes the bait.

Some funny things often happen in front of a foreign book desk. A tout who is pretty well known at the across-the-river tracks did a masterplece of business the time he got a "sucker" to "put down a little bet for the boy." The "good thing" put it down, with the innocent remark that it "might induce him to try," and the tout pocketed the ticket and incidentally This foriegn book business also furnishes

great field for the crooked element on the tracks who will not stop at any kind of a swindle. One of their favorite games is what is termed "getting a guy up against the wire." In plain, every-day English this means

to get a greenhorn to put down a swell bet, with the understanding that the foreign book wire is tapped and that the information will be taken from the wires and the winner of the race played before the returns are allowed to go in

THINKS THEY ARE TAPPED The so-called wire tappers will have a



Suckers and "Sure Thing."

is evidence enough that it must be a great money-making scheme. On some of great money-making scheme. On some of the larger tracks in the West the cost is even larger than this.

In addition to the large bonus that must be paid to the owners of the track for the privilege of running the book, there are other heavy expenses to be met. Not | the "tappers" long to separate him from his only does the payroli of the clerks amount to quite a little sum, but the track has to pay the telegraph companies for fur pishiog them with the returns from the tracks upon which they are making book. UNDER HEAVY EXPENSE.

This latter fee is much heavier on race track than it is in a poolroom. Just why this is so it would be hard to say, unless the telegraph companies realize that the race track books have a larger field than the poolrooms, and charge them accordingly.

Then comes the question of prices. If the quotations that are received in the foreign books were correct there is no reason why the man on the outside would not stand as good a show as the backet of the game. This, however, is just where the secret of the success of the thing comes in.

The man who is playing the foreign book does not seem to realize that he is getting far and away the worst of the prices. If he does, the desire to gamble is so strong that he keeps right at it until he goes broke.

If a que station on a horse comes into the pool at, say 3 to 1, the marker will put it up baif a point or so higher and so delude they are getting a better price than at the track. This is not so, as the prices are no only not really put up but they are shaved off bringing in a big kick from the talent.

If the betting comes in on a favorite at 4 to 5 and the book gives 9 to 10, it is hundred dollars to a cent that the race track price is even money or better.

PRICES CUT IN TWO This is also the case with the ot n a race. The first and second choices will come in at a fairly fair price and then the rest of the field will be quoted at just

Such a thing as chalking up the correct price against a 100 to 1 shot is very seldom done. When the Dollie colt won at the Island several weeks ago and the bookies

telegraph instrument somewhere near the track and will take the "guy" to it and tell him that the wire which he sees run oward the track is connected with the foreign book wire.

If he is pretty green he will jump at the chance to beat the book and it doesn't take bank roll. Sometimes they will pick out a horse that they think has a go and will take a chance with the money they get from him. As a rule, however they will take something that hasn't a chance in the world and when it loses claim that they got hold of the wrong wire

The "sucker" may put up a big kick but it does not do him much good as he cannot report the swindlers for fear of coming in for part of the pusishment himself

The class of people who make a practice of playing the foreign book does not appear to be as good as those who confine themselves to the local races. They are very often late years, have been closed up all over the

They seem to be fascinated by the came and hang around like so many ghosts of the past. There was a time possibly when many of them were not only well off but were rich and they never appear to lose hope that they will have a streak of luck or as they term it "get good."

TRY TO MAKE COMBINES.

The combination book in the foreign ook is also another field for a rich harvest for the backer of the game. This system of tion for many people, and though they don't cash a ticket once out of a hundred times, they will go back again and again with the always alive that they will some day strike it rich.

Possibly they do, but more often they go down with a dull thud. It is hard enough to pick one winner, without trying to pick

The profits of the backer of the book are o large that it would seem that they never have to pay off a ticket. This is very nearly rue, as a glance in front of the book any day will testify. At the ticket writer a deak there is a continual line of men eager to get their bets down, while at the paying

It's hard enough to win a bet on the local races, but when it comes to the foreign book the best game is to "scratch" before they have any chance to make any inrusals upon your bank roll.